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Subject: Literary Evening of DRACH and PAVLYCHKO at the Ukrainian Workers Home at 85 East 4th Street, New York ,N.Y.

Date : 14 Oct 1966

1. The literary Evening of Pavlychko and Drach with the so called "progressives" ( Communists of Ukrainian descent) took place at the Ukrainian Worker Home in New York on 11 Oct 1966, from 19.30 to approx. 22.00 hrs. There were about 50 persons present. The first spoke PAVLYCHKO who gave a general outline of recent developments in Ukrainian literature sticking all the time to official line and using a lot of phraseology. Then he read his poems :"Stiah", "Pro ruky" and "Zhest Nerona".

After PAVLYCHKO , DRACH read his three poems : Pamiati Maksyma Rylskoho, Kryla, and Kalynova Ballada.

Then followed questions from the public. One of the first ones was put by TOLOPKO Lev who asked the poets whether it was true what the nationalist press was writing about, namely that there were arrests and trials of Ukrainian literati in the Ukrainian SSR in 1965 and 1966. The reply was given by PAVLYCHKO who said that it was true, 23 people were sentenced to various terms , up to 6 years for anti-Soviet activity. He mentioned KARAVANSKYI as a German collaborator who continued his nationalist anti-Soviet activity after WW II, was sentenced to 25 years then ( after the liquidation of the cult of personality) rehabilitated and released with a warning that he would not return to his past activities. However, he did not keep his promise, organized anti-Soviet actions and was sentenced now again. He mentioned a few other names and the anti-Soviet activity explained as producing and dissemination of anti-Soviet literature.

There were two or three other questions but of no interest. The debate did not take place.

... stay in Drach file  
cc for 74-1241-2913

2. After the Evening DRACH, PAVLYCHKO, KOSACH Yuri, KOROLYK and BODNAR went upstairs and had a few drinks at the bar. They discussed the Russification in the Ukraine. TOLOPKO was the main defender of the official policy and was supported by PAVLYCHKO. DRACH kept silent, and KOSACH was sarcastic and cynical all the way. ~~to the right~~

At one point DRACH asked KOROLYK why so few people particularly from Eastern Ukraine were seeing him. KOROLYK replied that this was because of his article against KRAVTSIV Bohdan. DRACH became very sad but did not say anything.

It's Korolyk's and Bodnar's opinion that DRACH definitely was suffering from the fact the emigres could not forgive him his article against Kravtsiv and Co.

At the end KOSACH invited ~~all~~ them all to his house on 14 October 1966. They all agreed to come, incl. also a Kosak who joined them during the discussion.

3. Ukrainski Visti (the Ukrainian News) of New York published a short note about the Literary Evening in <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ issue of 13 Oct 1966. There is, however, no mention about the question and answer about the arrests and trials. (See copy.)

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